

REGULATORY COMMITTEE  
2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2005

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**REQUEST FOR CONTINUATION OF SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL  
AT SAMBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL, WARMINSTER**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To ask Members to consider the request for continuation of Council funding for the crossing patrol at Sambourne Primary School, Warminster.

**Background**

2. The school had two crossing patrol sites. One is outside the school entrance at the south of Sambourne Road, near its junction with Weymouth Street. The second was on Weymouth Street at a Zebra crossing facility. A plan showing the location of these points is attached at **Appendix 1**.
3. The patroller operating at the site outside the school resigned early in 2004. At that time it was considered appropriate to transfer the patroller operating at the other site, as it was judged that there was a greater need at the school site.
4. During the course of the Summer the Crossing Patrol Service Manager abolished the site on Weymouth Street after receiving advice from the Road Safety Officer (RSO). Very few children used the site, the vast majority of those were accompanied by an adult and there is also a Zebra crossing facility available.

**Current Situation**

5. The County Council's criteria for the establishment or retention of a school crossing patrol are endorsed by the Local Authorities Road Safety Officers' Association and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. These are detailed in **Appendix 2**.
6. The RSO's report on an assessment of the site is attached at **Appendix 3**. This shows the traffic and pedestrian volumes for this site fall below the criteria for a crossing patrol.
7. This appeal has come from the school's Chair of Governors and her letter of appeal for the patrol funding to continue is attached at **Appendix 4**.
8. In her letter, the Chair of Governors makes three main points:
  - (i) The road is still not safe enough for children to cross unaccompanied.
  - (ii) The site is located on the brow of a hill causing problems with visibility for motorists.
  - (iii) There is a nearby road junction which has limited visibility.

These points are addressed in paragraph 16 below.

### **Additional Information**

9. Although under existing criteria it is not appropriate to continue funding the salary of the patrol, it is possible to fund the cost of uniform and equipment and also provide insurance cover and training should the school wish to pursue the appointment of a volunteer or privately funded patrol.
10. Any appointment would be subject to the applicant gaining Criminal Record Bureau and medical clearance through the Council's normal recruitment procedure.

### **Main Consideration for the Council**

11. It is not County Council practice to employ a new crossing patrol at an existing crossing facility. This is considered a duplication of resources.
12. However, there are crossing patrol sites in the County where additional crossing facilities have been introduced subsequent to a patroller being employed. In such cases it would be necessary to make a patroller redundant in order to avoid duplication. This is considered inappropriate as it is preferable that patrollers leave employment through retirement or resignation.
13. Members are asked to decide whether the appeal for retention of funding should allow for a departure from normal policy.

### **Environmental Impact**

14. None.

### **Risk Assessment**

15. The RSO's report is an assessment of the risks posed at the site.
16. With regard to the points raised in paragraph 8, the following response is given:
  - (i) In law, it remains the responsibility of the parent to accompany their child to school if they feel this is appropriate, and so it is for the parent to decide whether the child should walk to school unaccompanied or not.
  - (ii) Concerns regarding visibility and the location of junctions are taken into account as part of the RSO's site report.

### **Financial Implications**

17. The current cost of a crossing patrol operating half an hour each morning and afternoon is £1,261.40 per annum.

### **Reason for Recommendation**

18. The County criteria for a patrol are not met and the RSO's report does not recommend this site should continue with County funding.

## **Recommendation**

19. That:-

- (i) The County Council does not continue to fund the salary of the school crossing patrol post serving Sambourne Primary School.
- (ii) The offer of free uniform, equipment, insurance and training be made to the school.

**GEORGE BATTEN**

Director of Environmental Services

Report Author

**TAZRIL TAMIN**

Senior Education Transport Policy and Development Officer

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**The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report:**

Correspondence with Sambourne Primary School